

A LECTURE,

GIVEN AT THE

MEATH HOSPITAL,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

OPENING OF THE SESSION,

NOVEMBER 4TH, 1867.

BY

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ETC., ETC.

DUBLIN:

JOHN FALCONER, 53, UPPER SACKVILLE-STREET.

PRINTER TO HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1867.

VIRO DOCTISSIMO
GULIELMO STOKES, M.D., F.R.S.,

OLIM PRECEPTORI
LIAMINGO COLLEGE

SEMPER AMICO
DISCIPULUS ET ADJUTOR

MULTIS BENEFICIIS

HAUD INGRATUS

D. D.

A L E C T U R E .

GENTLEMEN,

The duty of opening this (the 115th) Session of the Meath Hospital, devolves on me in rotation, inasmuch as the Medical Board agreed some years ago to depart from the old custom by which that duty was invariably left to the Senior Surgeon of the establishment, or to one nominated by him to act in his stead.

One quarter of a century has elapsed since I first took my seat in this theatre to listen to the words of wisdom which fell in brief but emphatic periods from the lips of the mighty surgeon whose bust adorns the niche above my head. Year after year Sir Philip Crampton addressed to the ever-changing class of students, words whose tendency was ever to elevate, to instruct, and to polish those who heard and weighed them well. He was himself an eminent example of what he would have had us all to be—an accomplished surgeon and a perfect gentleman. I refer to him especially on this occasion, when I propose to occupy your attention with a brief history of the institution within whose walls we are assembled, because he was the link between ourselves who learned at his feet and those earnest men, his early teachers, who, amid much perplexity and difficulty, founded the old Meath Hospital.

Hospitals may be looked upon in a threefold light—as institutions for the benefit of the poor; secondly, of the rich; and, thirdly, of the medical profession. In their first aspect they are simply charitable institutions, a means of carrying out in one of the most effective ways the divine commands of Him who has told us that the poor should be ever with us, who not only set us the example of healing the sick, but who, amid a multitude of moral precepts, has given this one practical test of discipleship—the doing kind offices to our neighbour. This branch of my theme would admit

of infinite enlargement if this were a charity sermon, but as I wish not to trench upon the province of my reverend hearers, I shall pass on to consider hospitals as established especially for the benefit of the rich.

Hospitals are manifestly established for the rich, because they are thus relieved from all active or personal concern in the ailments or accidents of their dependents, whether tenants or servants. A ready place is afforded to relieve them of annoyance or danger when a domestic catches a fever or breaks a leg. This is so self-evident an advantage that it needs no amplification; but this is, after all, but a minor reason, selfishly speaking, why the rich should look upon hospitals as specially founded for their benefit. A much more important and cogent reason remains to be considered. If there were no hospitals wherein the student could follow the practice and learn the art of the surgeon; no wards wherein he could study the varying phases of disease in life, under the guidance of the physician; no dead room wherein to search out the changes wrought by it on the material frame; no lecture-room wherein the teacher could sum up in clear yet concise detail the lessons thus variously gathered, it may be, in indiscriminating profusion, or it may be by more scanty gleanings; what, let me ask, would be the condition of the man of wealth when sickness or accident befel him—where was he to look for the mechanical skill, the educated touch, or, still more, the cultivated mental power, which, one and all, are necessary for the efficient practice of the healing art? It is not so much that in hospitals the physician and surgeon are ever increasing and perfecting their stores of learning and experience, both by daily practice and observation, and by daily teaching (*docendo discentes*). Nor is it even because in these places the early rise of epidemics is noted, and their progress guarded against, or the laws which regulate them investigated—it is not so much because hospitals are watch towers and fortresses, as because they are great schools for the training of the future soldier in the army of health that they deserve the support of the rich. Without claiming more for those who occupy the posts of physicians and surgeons to hospitals, it may be taken for granted that they are on an average

qualified already for the care and treatment of a rich man. The State accordingly looks upon hospitals not as places where the skill of the practitioner may be perfected, but simply as schools where those who have attained a certain amount of skill and knowledge may impart what they can of that skill and knowledge, or at least aid and superintend their juniors, in their search for the same. With this view the State, which does not much concern itself with charity as a divine precept, has supported hospitals to a certain limited extent. It is mainly to the celebrity of this hospital as a school of medicine that it is indebted for the by no means large amount of public money which it has hitherto received. I have no doubt that all who hear me, in fact, all right-thinking persons, would prefer that we could appeal solely to the higher motive of charity, and that all self-interest could be left out of calculation in the question of the ways and means by which this noble institution is supported and ought to be extended. But we are not perfect, and what I do not concede to the public at large I am not going to claim for my own profession. There have been men of large heart and much self-denial connected with the founding and consolidating of our charitable institutions; there are men still, plenty of them, who give freely of both time and money for their support, and the machinery of their working. Yet, strange to say, neither now nor in former days do we observe the founding of an hospital to result without a third motive power. Charity and the self-interest of the wealthy classes have never yet founded an hospital without this third element—namely, the impetus which hospitals give to medical progress. I shall not further dwell on one phase of this subject, the school question, but rather upon the bearing which hospitals have upon the moral character of the medical man. That the possession of a post in an hospital is of essential service to the worldly prospects and success of those who hold office in it, is plain, and this spring of our interest in hospitals is not to be denied. Yet it is the moral power which the office gives us which makes us love it, and cling to it long after all interested motives cease to sway us. We see men who have reached the highest eminence and the largest meed of worldly success, give much of their most

valuable time, the freshness of their mornings, to hospital duties. Why? Like all true men, they love success, and the influence and moral power which is born of success. In the wards of the hospital they reign supreme. Nowhere else can they be so sure of obedience to their orders; nowhere can they battle with disease on such equal terms; nowhere can they wrestle with the grim angel of death with such chances of success. Few men, if any, succeed who do not thoroughly love and believe in their work, and nowhere, as in the wards of the hospital, is their work done so well. Nowhere do they feel their power so secure, and, certainly, nowhere is their influence more felt. It is this innate, unconquerable ruling instinct which, along with the higher and lower motives of charity and self-interest, has led medical men to be essentially founders of hospitals, and not merely their founders, but their active supporters and the stirrers-up of benevolent purposes in others.

Of the various hospitals in Dublin the following were directly set going by the exertions or benevolence of medical men:—The hospital now known as Jervis-street Hospital, Steevens's Hospital, the Lying-in Hospital, the Lock Hospital, St. Nicholas's Hospital, which, after many changes, has merged into St. Mark's, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and the Meath. Others there are, no doubt, but there is documentary evidence easily obtainable to show that all these hospitals were started into being by the exertions of medical men. The history of the indomitable energy and personal sufferings of Dr. Bartholomew Mosse, who built the magnificent Lying-in Hospital in Britain-street, has been written by one whose pen is well able to do justice to the theme. In the first volume of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal*, year 1846, Sir William Wilde gives a graphic account of Mosse's struggles in this cause. The narrative reads like a romance, and will well repay perusal. But I must leave to others the details of other hospitals, and confine myself to the history of our own, so far as I can gather it from not very perfect documents.

In the *Gentleman and Citizen's Almanack*, by John Watson, bookseller, for the year of our Lord 1754, and 27th of Geo. II., page 72, is found the following first notice of the Meath Hospital:

“The Meath Hospital on the Coombe was opened 2nd March, 1753. Supported hitherto by a benefit play, some benefactions, and annual subscriptions of several of the principal inhabitants of the Earl of Meath’s Liberty, and other well-disposed persons, who judged that an institution of this nature was much wanted in a part of the town remote from the city hospitals and greatly thronged with the industrious poor. That it really was so has plainly appeared from the great numbers who daily reap the benefit. The number of out-patients to 29th September, 1753, was 4,095, and 12 interns have been maintained, cured, and discharged. Messrs. Alex. Cunningham, Redmond Boat, David Macbride, and Henry Hawkshaw, surgeons, attend daily in their turns, and all serve without fee or reward. Benefactions will be received by Mr George Thwaites, at Cork-bridge, and Mr. Joseph Terry, in Braithwaite-street.”

The hospitals which were then in existence appear to have been Dr. Steevens’s Hospital; Mercer’s Hospital; the Charitable Infirmary on Inns’-quay (now Jervis-street Hospital); the Lying-in Hospital in George’s-lane (the precursor of the Rotundo Hospital); St. Nicholas’s Hospital in Francis-street, and the Hospital for Incurables. A document prepared and presented to the Irish House of Commons by the Governors of the Meath Hospital in 1773 supplements this somewhat meagre sketch of our origin. From it we gather that the surgeons and physicians had not only been at a considerable private expense, but also that they had with infinite industry and application been the principal agents in raising the hospital buildings. The records of the hospital, scanty as they are for the first twenty years, lead to the conclusion that all deficiencies were guaranteed and made up by the medical men. The petition or memorial of 1773 further states that from the first the surgeons and physicians had served without fee or reward; and on the hospital being placed on a somewhat permanent footing, by being constituted the County Dublin Infirmary, they deliberately gave up £100 per annum Treasury grant, and their proportion of the county presentment, to the hospital funds. The hospital still receives this £200 per annum, the salary of the medical

officers. So far as the poor are concerned the services of the physicians and surgeons in the hospital are gratuitous, and so far as the rich are concerned they are their unpaid fellow-labourers in this charitable institution. They are, no doubt, paid by their pupils for their instructions; but it is right that the public should comprehend how it stands towards them, and how they both stand towards this and kindred institutions. From want of thought on the matter much misconception exists, and hospitals are sometimes spoken of as if they existed solely for the pecuniary benefit of medical men. It is not so. A physician or surgeon needs but a few beds to show himself a successful teacher, a brilliant operator. Scarpa had but six beds in his hospital, yet what an everlasting fame he has built for himself. A small hospital will do for the medical man, but a large one is needed for the necessities of the poor and the benefit of the rich.

That in former times both classes co-operated is seen in our records. The first entry in our oldest minute-book is dated February 28, 1766. On its first page we find as members of the committee the honoured names of Guinness, Vane, and Pim. Representatives of these names are still the staunch friends of the institution, and long may they so continue.

The ways adopted at this time to raise funds consisted in dividing the neighbourhood of the hospital into wards, and appointing a number of gentlemen in each ward to take in subscriptions. There was also an annual benefit play, and a dinner. Lotteries were at this time usually employed to raise money for public purposes. Thus the Guild of Merchants had their scheme to raise money to build the Exchange, and in this and in such like schemes a sum varying from £100 to £300 was generally set aside for the favourite hospital or charity of the day. In this way the Meath Hospital received several contributions. The present representatives of the corporate interests of our city, who hold their meetings in the building referred to, now known as the City Hall, have within the last week recognized the value of the Meath Hospital to the citizens by presenting for it a sum of £300. To these worthy successors of those who did not forget to aid the charity when

building the walls of the old Exchange, our warmest thanks are due. We on our side can join in the statement made over one hundred years ago to their predecessors, that this institution is free from all unworthy taint of sectarianism, that all creeds are respected within its walls, and that none are allowed to lord it over the other on the score of religion.

In 1769 the governors of the hospital, which had been moved a few years before into Skinner's-alley, and thence into Earl-street, determined, in consequence of its ruinous condition and unsuitable character, to build a new hospital. Consequently, exertions were made to raise money; a piece of ground was bought upon the Coombe, and, after various delays, on October 10th, 1770, Lord Brabazon, ancestor of the present Earl of Meath, laid the first stone of what was the old Meath Hospital on the Coombe, and what is now the Coombe Lying-in Hospital. The cost of this building was defrayed in part by a lottery prize of £1,000, and in part by a legacy bequeathed by Mrs. Lockwood, amounting to £660. This legacy was the cause of a prolonged dispute with the Hospital of St. Nicholas, who claimed it in virtue of their usurpation of the title of the United Hospitals of St. Catherine and St. Nicholas—the legacy of £1,000 being left in the proportion of three-fourths to the former and one-fourth to the latter. After much correspondence and threatened litigation the matter was decided by a committee of the Irish House of Lords in favour of the right of the Meath Hospital to the three-fourths bequeathed to St. Catherine's Hospital, there being no institution of the latter name in existence at the date of the will, and the Meath Hospital being in St. Catherine's parish. After some further delay the money was paid to the Meath, but the Hospital of St. Nicholas kept hold of the usurped name of St. Catherine. One result of the dispute was to draw the attention of Parliament to the hospital and its superior claims, and in same year (1774) it was by Act of Parliament constituted the County of Dublin Infirmary.

This new hospital now began to acquire celebrity as a school of surgery and medicine. The names of many of its physicians and surgeons would now be known only to the medical antiquary. The

life of one of the first surgeons of the hospital, David M'Bride, has been written by Sir William Wilde, and will be found in the third volume of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal*. In this memoir there is much interesting matter, but the fact of his connexion with the Meath Hospital is not noticed. This is scarcely a matter of surprise, as he seems soon to have left it, and to have devoted his talents to the practice of midwifery, in which he became so celebrated as to get the attendance on numbers of titled ladies. Among others it has been stated that he attended the Countess of Mornington on the occasion of the birth of Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. (I do not know what gave rise to this notion, for the honour of assisting on that auspicious occasion in reality fell to Sir Fielding Ould.)

Among other surgeons about this time we find Solomon Richards. For a period of twenty-nine years, beginning from 1790, his portly form was almost daily seen in the Old Meath, where he reigned supreme. (Mr. Richards was succeeded, in 1819, by William Henry Porter, whose loss to this hospital and to surgery I had to deplore on the last occasion upon which I opened the Meath Hospital Winter Session.) Contemporary with Richards, for a short period, was William Dease, one of the best surgeons in the 18th century. He was noted as a great lithotomist, and in a rare tract, referred to by Sir Wm. Wilde, he set forth the various modes of lithotomy, giving preference to that of Daunt, now known as Peile's method, the last-named surgeon having brought it to what perfection it was capable of. Wm. Dease at his death was succeeded by Philip Crampton, who commenced his apprenticeship to Solomon Richards on the 8th November, 1792, and was elected surgeon unanimously on the 28th September, 1798, being thus less than one year out of his time, and not being in possession of any other qualification than that of army assistant. His career as a surgeon to the Meath Hospital lasted but a few months less than sixty years. What changes did he see in the practice of surgery! What an epitome of progress could be formed from an accurate record of his experiences. How largely did he contribute by his own labours to benefit mankind—a great man, who to the last enjoyed unusual

vigour of intellect; how he ripened and mellowed as years added to his store of experience is still in the memory of many. The weighty wisdom of his words, few and foreible, caused him to be listened to as an oracle; and justly so, for the unclouded intellect of an aged philosopher must, of necessity, increase in value as year after year it becomes more perfect by practice and more richly stored by experience. Crampton's great *forte* lay in acute observation and rapid power of combination. A look, a touch, one or two pregnant questions, and the diagnosis was made, and treatment rapidly determined upon. And with this rapidity of judgment, so captivating to the looker-on, and so fatal to those who, with less accurate eye, and feebler powers of deduction, attempt to copy it, he seldom erred. If I add to this that to the last his hand was light and steady, his movements as an operator quietly graceful, devoid of ostentatious show, rapid, but not hurried, cool in every emergency, and prompt in every danger, I think you will agree with me that those who had the fortune to study his method were fortunate indeed. They had before them an example such as occurs not more than once in a generation, scarcely even in a century; for few men have, in addition to his natural ability, been so gifted with vigour and longevity as to arrive at matured perfection like his.

In the old hospital, besides those I have named, Dr. Evory taught for eight years before he became master of the Lying-in Hospital. To him succeeded Bell, and then Francis Barker, who for half a century afterwards was famous as a lecturer and professor of chemistry. The names of Egan and Todderick are now less known than their successor Cheyne, who laid the first foundations of the modern method of teaching in the Meath before he migrated to the House of Industry Hospital in 1817. To him, in the next year, succeeded Whitley Stokes, the first of an illustrious trio, who, I doubt not, will make that name as renowned in the records of the Irish school as the three Monroes have done for the Scotch.

And now in rapid succession, in one year, 1819, come the names of Maenamara and Porter—names honoured among us, not only for

the merits of those who held them, but at least as much for their present representatives.

The last name associated with the old Meath is one which can never be mentioned without the profoundest feelings of respect and gratitude by any one who comprehends in the faintest degree the true method of clinical study. In the year 1821 Robert James Graves was appointed physician to the Meath Hospital. This remarkable man left an impress on medical education that time will not efface. He first raised the pupil from the position of an inferior, who was simply permitted to look on and scarcely to listen, to be the fellow-worker of the physician, to join with him in daily observing and recording the phenomena of disease, and to share in the responsibility of the daily treatment. He first in this hospital perfected the system of clinical instruction, which is still successfully pursued, and of which, if the student avail himself, he becomes by degrees a skilled and scientific practitioner. The great importance of clinical lectures, and the high esteem in which they are held, may be judged by the fact that, whereas before they were commenced the class of pupils in this hospital averaged only ten, they had been carried on for very few years until the class reached the number of seventy.

No theme would please me better than to continue this sketch, and to give from this place the panegyric of others—my own early teachers—who have passed away. But time will not permit, and what remains of my special subject must be briefly concluded.

Towards the close of the second decade of this century the Governor of the old Meath found that the building on the Coombe was confined in accommodation, and incapable of extension on any reasonable terms. Encouraged by a timely gift of £6,000 from Thomas Pleasants, obtained by Mr. Richards and Mr. Peile, they set about the building of this present hospital in which we are assembled. The Dean's Vineyard, containing two acres, was purchased for £1,120, free of rent. £4,000 of Pleasants' money was available, and was expended on the walls of the central building; the remaining £2,000 was funded by his direction to procure wine and other necessities for cases that required them. To

complete the building £4,788 was granted by the county in 1820. This house was opened for the reception of patients on the 26th December, 1822. I have often heard the late Professor Porter and my uncle, Maurice Collis, relate how they superintended the removal of the patients from the old hospital to the new, carrying them, wrapped in blankets, in baskets made for the purpose. During the process of removal, which occupied some hours, a furious storm arose, and on the return journeys they were glad to protect their own heads from the flying slates with the empty baskets.

In the year 1826, owing to a severe epidemic of fever, sheds had to be erected in the grounds of the hospital, and a large subsidy was granted by Government for the cost of maintenance of the fever patients. On the subsidence of the epidemic it was rightly judged by the medical board that it would be prudent to set apart special wards for the immediate reception of fever patients at all times, that epidemics might thus be checked in their onset, and much loss of life in all classes of the community prevented. This was represented to Government, I believe, by the Surgeon-General and the physicians, Drs. Graves and Stokes, and it resulted in our obtaining an annual grant for this purpose. This grant, which dates from the 5th November, 1827, used to vary according to the amount of fever, but has of late years been commuted into a fixed sum of £600 a-year. This sum was secured to us after a long inquiry, mainly on the ground that these fever wards make our hospital more complete as an educational establishment for the training of medical men for the various public services at home and abroad.

Additions have been made to this establishment from time to time, either at the sole expense of the medical board, as in the case of the dispensary buildings, or, to a great measure, as in the case of this operating theatre. This latter was built in part from a legacy obtained by the late Professor Macnamara from a gentleman who entrusted him with a fund for purposes of charity, and in part by a contribution of £400 from the members of the medical board. Other additions have been made in honour of our departed

colleagues, such as the Collis Recovery Wards and the Smyly Ward for children—ways of honouring the dead of our profession which commend themselves to the common sense of mankind as more suitable to the individuals than statues of marble or of bronze. All these additional wards, together with the endowments in memory of Surgeons Porter and Rynd, the Sandford bed, the beds endowed by the Society of Friends, &c., are subject to the same impartial rules, with respect to religious toleration, as the rest of the hospital. The Standing Committee will accept with thanks any similar endowments from whatever quarter they may come, on the condition that their rules, which secure freedom to all, with offence to none, are not departed from.

Among the not very numerous bequests which have been made to this hospital, I may mention one by the Right Hon. James Grattan, of nearly £5,000, the interest of which we receive from his executors. In memory of this benefaction we have called the square ward upstairs “The Grattan Ward.”

And so this hospital has grown up to its present state by successive stages of development and growth, due now to the combined energy and benevolence of its lay and medical governors, now to the princely munificence of those who, possessed of wealth, knew how to give their thousands with a liberal hand, and now to the tender regard of friends and relatives to departed worth. As a building it is efficient, but by no means incapable of improvement. As a public charity it admits, nay, loudly calls for extension, for its walls are not large enough, its wards not capacious enough to contain one-half that claim admission within them. The advance of science demands that our fever department should be established in a separate building, built upon principles of modern hygiene. The removal of this department from within these walls would not only save our other patients from risks of occasional infection, but give us what we imperatively require—wards for the reception of accidents somewhat better than the wretched rooms which are now put to that use. Would that we had at the present day others like Pleasants or Grattan, to whose munificent donations the present generation is so largely indebted.

And as this hospital has grown, and, I trust, will still grow in material proportions, so has its eminence, as a medical school, strengthened and extended its influence. Much of this is due to the labours of our great predecessors, much to those of that one honoured man who laboured hard with them from his early youth, and who, after forty years of unremitting toil, is still fresh and keen in the pursuit of knowledge, and in the earnest daily effort to impart some of his great stores to the crowds of eager listeners who hang upon his every word. That he may long be spared as our honored head is the fervent wish of us, who, having sat at his feet as students, are now privileged to sit beside him as his colleagues.

Did time permit, I should claim your attention to the vast advances of medicine and surgery in the long period which has elapsed since the first small beginnings of this hospital. Let me briefly mention three of the more prominent which have occurred in my own remembrance in the domain of surgery. First, in order of time, is that glory of the Irish school, the treatment of aneurism by compression; second, the gradual introduction of lithotrity, as a recognized practice, by French surgeons. Sir Philip Crampton largely contributed to the introduction and stability of this improvement. Thirdly, the great advances of plastic surgery, which date mainly from the discovery and practice of uranoplasty, or closure of clefts in the hard palate, by a distinguished American surgeon, of whom death has this year deprived us—Dr. Mason Warren, of Boston. These improvements occurred while I was yet a pupil. The year 1847 was signalized by the introduction of anesthesia into this country. The first painless operation was performed in the town of Hertford, Connecticut, by a dentist of the name of Wells, in 1844. He had the barren honour of introducing anesthesia. His discovery was improved by Morton of Boston, who in 1846 substituted sulphuric ether for the nitrous oxide gas, which Wells had used, and finally, Sir James Simpson introduced chloroform, which in this country has held the lead, and has gained for the worthy baronet a European renown. The impetus given to surgery by anesthesia has been immense. Year after year new and difficult operations have been achieved, such as before chloroform were unthought of. It would be impossible

to enumerate them all, for scarcely a day passes without fresh additions to our resources in this respect.

Cotemporaneous with this advance in the mechanical part of our art has been a great growth in pathological knowledge. The researches of Rokitanski and Lébert, of Hanover and Thiersch, of Paget, Virchow, and many others have placed in a new and clearer light the results of morbid action on various tissues of the body.

The great improvements in mechanical appliances for all purposes connected with the study and practice of our art is but a part of the age when "individual men are less, and usages, opinions, laws, and material appliances of every kind play a more important part than of old." Students in the present day thus enjoy facilities which were denied to us in our student days. The microscope, with its binocular arrangement, the laryngoscope, the ophthalmoscope, the endoscope, all help to enlarge their field of view, and to aid them to acquire at once an amount of knowledge which, even in our early days, was impossible with prolonged labour.

And now to what practical end does all this retrospect point the way? For what purpose have I to-day recapitulated the history of the Meath Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary, and why have I coupled with it remarks upon the changes which I have witnessed since first, as a pupil, I sat where you now sit? What is the value of research into the records and reminiscences of the past? Surely it is this—that by study of what has been done we too may learn to do. History is strictly utilitarian. In the words of Disraeli, "he who would have faith in the future of Sheffield must not sneer at the antiquity of Damascus." We stand ever on the confines of two great epochs—the past and the future. The knowledge acquired in the past by our own labours or from others—the glorious achievements of those heroes of science, whose names will recur to the mind of the student with an energising power—the results of the life-long toil of all the mighty dead are ours—aye, even their shortcomings and mistakes are for us—beacons on the road to truth—not merely mines of well-nigh inexhaustible facts, but, still more, storerooms of implements with which we are to conquer the future. The lesson we learn from

the past is in one word—progress. It has been well said, “The knowledge of yesterday is the ignorance of to-morrow.” We cannot, we dare not stand still, at the risk of being annihilated under the wheels of progress. The knowledge which we have hitherto accumulated is ours to use, and not to fold our hands and dream upon—to use, and, in using, to increase at least for ourselves and our own improvement, and then of necessity for the advantage of our fellow-men. It is a common error of the young, and one against which I must caution my younger hearers, that knowledge in any branch is at last complete, and that once they have mastered what is known, nothing will remain for them to do. This rash judgment is the offspring of ignorance, and the study of past progress will show them its folly. During many a dark century Europe was content to rest on the labours of the past, and, as a result, no progress was made; nay, more, the power of standing still was lost, and, before the revival of literature, men were infinitely more ignorant than their ancestors had been; they had actually lost the power of applying the materials that lay ready to their hand. To use the past aright, we must compare and correct its teachings by the observation of what is before us. With all humility we must doubt, and by doubting arrive at certainty. To use the work of other men to good purpose we must test it, and not go with untried armour into battle. So, I say to you, students, if you are to become worthy successors of the able men who have preceded us, you must make their work your own, not only by diligent reading, but even more, by observation and comparison of the facts that in rich abundance come before your view in the wards of this institution. The task may seem endless, but it is captivating. The field is immense, but as your sight is exercised it will become keener, and what at first may have been dry and wearisome will, ere long, be found possessed of an ever-growing interest and beautiful perfection. The student may pass through the wards of the hospital day after day, and remain blind to all but obvious facts, of which he only becomes conscious by having them repeatedly thrust before his eyes. How much more agreeable is the progress of one who can open his eyes, and take in at first a few

facts, and then by degrees some fair proportion of the vast material which lies before him every day. It is not enough, however, to observe. Facts are but the foundation on which to build, or at best the stones from which to select the material of our edifice. We need the further power of comparing and combining before we can make a fit use of our observations. For want of these faculties, or rather from neglect of their cultivation, some diligent collectors of facts are unable to utilise them. There are men in every generation who are perfect mines of facts, walking encyclopedias, reservoirs (I had almost said butts), whom you have only to tap and obtain a copious stream of mere knowledge—sometimes clear, sometimes muddy—men of great service to others whose memories are less tenacious, and who are yet unable to draw from all their stores one sound conclusion for themselves. Be careful, then, not only to accumulate facts, but to select and test them by comparison, so as to have the best material. Compare your own observations, rough at first, with the more accurate results of more experienced labourers, and be not in haste to build. The comparison of observations tests their accuracy; if one man has but once seen an unusual phenomenon, its value is but small, for the observation may have been inaccurate; if he have met with it more than once, and still more, if another confirm his statement, there is strong ground for accepting it. Comparison is the best test for those false facts which are the *ignis fatuus* of many a careless observer. Compare, then, all you see or think you see, with the recorded experience of those who before you have trod the same paths of investigation. Much may be learned, too, by mutual comparison, the elder student correcting the observations of his junior, the surgeon or physician of both. Case-taking is a valuable aid to this end, and I cannot too strongly impress upon you its advantages.

Scarcely in the early days of your pupilage, and not much at any time until compelled to it by the necessities of practice, will you learn to combine the materials which you have accumulated into even fragments of a consistent building. The deduction of principles and laws, the elaboration of rules of practice—in a word,

scientific medicine, in its largest sense, is the slow result of a life-long study of disease. None should attempt it on pain of an ignominious failure who do not bring to the task an ardent love for their profession, a cultivated mind, a pure heart, a power of self-elevation above the cares and troubles of life, unflinching determination to turn neither to the right nor to the left, but to hold straight on with a single eye, doing their best for their fellow-man, without a thought of self, in humble imitation of the Great Exemplar and High Priest of our profession. And let not the weakest and least cultivated student despair of attaining this, the highest eminence—not wealth, not earthly fame, the gifts capricious of uncertain fortune; but this, the Godlike power of so applying the principles of his art that sickness may be relieved, life prolonged, and sorrow ever mitigated by his healing presence. These glorious powers have been possessed in the highest degree by men in the humblest walks of our profession—men who have had to fight the hardest battles for a bare subsistence, whose days have been weariness and pain, whose nights have been spent in watching, and who never had the leisure to impart to their fellow-practitioner, even if they had the power to do so, the thousandth part of the insight into nature that they thus laboriously acquired. Those who have loved to talk with these village Hampdens know well their worth, and hold them in the highest esteem.

Whether, then, you seek to follow your profession at home or abroad, in the busy haunts of man or in the comparative retirement of the country, remember that to fill it as you ought, the same diligence, the same cultivation, and the same rectitude of purpose should be yours; and fret not yourselves if, in this world, an equal reward to others be not given to you. The time is short. Love your profession, and work will be your happiness, success in work your reward. The time is short; work while it is day, for a night will come when work will give place to rest, and, after that, the dawn of a perfect day.

LIST OF PHYSICIANS,
AND
ANNALS OF MEATH HOSPITAL.

LIST

OF

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

TO THE

MEATH HOSPITAL.

The original Surgeons when the Hospital was opened on the Coombe, March 2nd, 1753:—

	Alexander Cunningham.
	Redmond Boat.
	David M'Bride.
	Henry Hawkshaw.
1754	Dr. Thomas Brooke, appointed physician.
	Dr. Francis Hutcheson, appointed physician.
	James Mills, appointed surgeon.
	Henry Mapletoft, appointed surgeon.
175—	Dr. William Patten, physician, <i>vice</i>
	William Vance, surgeon, <i>vice</i> Mapletoft?
	Michael White, surgeon.
1760	Dr. John Donaldson, physician.
1767	Dr. John Charles Fleury, physician, <i>vice</i> Dr. Donaldson.
	Mr. Linley, surgeon.
1770, Apr. 26,	Dr. Daniel Cooke, physician, <i>vice</i> Dr. Patten, deceased.
177—	Arthur Winter, surgeon.
1776, Mar. 31,	Israel Read, surgeon.
1781, June 22,	Dr. Francis Hopkins, physician, <i>vice</i> Dr. Cooke, resigned.
1781, June 26,	George O'Brien, surgeon, <i>vice</i> Hawkshaw, deceased.

- 1782, June 6, Patriek Cusack Roney, surgeon, *vice* Cunningham, deceased.
- 1784, Mar. 19, James Scott, surgeon, *vice* James Mills, deceased.
- 1785, Apr. 20, Dr. Thomas Evory, physician, *vice* Dr. Hopkins, appointed to Mercer's Hospital (apprenticed to Mr. Vance, August 1, 1775).
- 1786, Feb. 7, Dr. Edmund Cullen, physician, *vice* Dr. Fleury, resigned.
- 1787, Dec. 10, Benjamin Wilson, surgeon, *vice* J. Scott, deceased.
- 1788, July 4, Dr. Daniel Bryan, physician, *vice* Dr. Cullen, resigned.
- 1790, Sept. 29, Solomon Richards, surgeon, *vice* A. Winter, deceased.
- 1793, Mar. 23, William Dease, surgeon, *vice* William Vance, deceased.
- 1793, Dec. 7, Dr. Thomas Bell, physician, *vice* Dr. Evory, appointed Master of the Lying-in Hospital.
- 1795, Sept. 15, Richard Dease, surgeon, *vice* Israel Read, deceased (apprenticed to Mr. Richards).
- 1798, Sept. 28, Philip Crampton, surgeon, *vice* William Dease, deceased (apprenticed to Mr. Richards, November 8, 1792).
- 1802, Feb. 5, Cusack Roney, surgeon, *vice* G. O'Brien, resigned (apprenticed to P. C. Roney, March 25, 1795).
- 1803, Feb. 18, Dr. Francis Barker, physician, *vice* Dr. Bryan, resigned.
- 1806, Mar. 29, Dr. Thomas Egan, physician, *vice* Dr. Bell, resigned.
- 1809, Mar. 2, Thomas Hewson, surgeon, *vice* B. Wilson (apprenticed to Mr. Richards, May 1, 1801).
- 1809, May 1, Dr. George Frank Todderick, physician, *vice* Dr. Barker, resigned.
- 1811, Nov. 12, John Cheyne, L.K.Q.C.P., physician, *vice* Dr. Todderick, resigned.
- 1813, Apr. 2, Thomas Roney, surgeon, *vice* P. C. Roney, resigned (apprenticed to P. C. Roney, February 2nd, 1808).
- 1817, Oct. 14, Patriek Harkan, physician, *vice* Dr. Cheyne, resigned, on appointment to House of Industry Hospital.
- 1818, Dec. 14, Dr. Whitley Stokes, physician, *vice* Dr. Egan, deceased.
- 1819, Mar. 5, Rawdon Maenamara, surgeon, *vice* R. Dease, deceased.
- 1819, Nov. 20, William Henry Porter, surgeon, *vice* Solomon Richards, deceased (apprenticed to Mr. P. Crampton).
- 1821, July 31, Robert James Graves, physician, *vice* Dr. Harkan, resigned.
- 1825, Dec. 18, Maurice Collis, surgeon, *vice* Thomas Roney, deceased (apprenticed to Thomas Hewson).
- 1826, Jan. 7, Dr. William Stokes, physician, *vice* Dr. Whitley Stokes, resigned.
- 1831, Nov. 10, Josiah Smyly, surgeon, *vice* Thomas Hewson, deceased (apprenticed to Mr. P. Crampton).
- 1836, Dec. 10, Francis Rynd, surgeon, *vice* Rawdon M'Namara, deceased (apprenticed to Mr. P. Crampton).

- 1843, Dec. 28, Catheart Lees, physician, *vice* Dr. Graves, resigned.
- 1849, Sept. 8, George Hornidge Porter, surgeon, *vice* Cusack Roney, deceased (apprenticed to J. Smyly).
- 1851, Oct. 11, Maurice Henry Collis, surgeon, *vice* Maurice Collis, resigned (apprenticed to Maurice Collis, February 1842).
- 1858, July , Thomas Ledwich, surgeon. *vice* Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., deceased.
- 1858, Oct. 13, James H. Wharton, surgeon, *vice* Thomas Ledwich, deceased (apprenticed to Maurice Collis).
- 1861, Feb. 2, Dr. Alfred Hudson, physician, *vice* Catheart Lees, resigned.
- 1861, July , Philip Crampton Smyly, surgeon, *vice* William H. Porter, deceased (apprenticed to Sir P. Crampton).
- 1861, Oct. , Rawdon Macnamara, surgeon, *vice* F. Rynd, deceased (apprenticed to Sir P. Crampton).
- 1864, Feb. 2, William Stokes, jun., surgeon, *vice* Josiah Smyly, deceased.

ANNALS
OF THE
MEATH HOSPITAL.

1753. The Meath Hospital on the Coombe was opened March 2nd. The number of patients up to Sept. 29 was—Interns, 12; externs, 4,095.
1754. Interns, 36; externs, 6,495, during the twelve months ending Sept. 29.
Subscribers paying one guinea a year were governors. A committee held a monthly meeting to inspect and regulate the affairs of the charity, and a general board was held once a year.
1755. The physicians and surgeons appear to be *ex-officio* governors. Interns, 41; externs, 7,203.
1756. The lease of the house in the Coombe having expired the hospital removed to Skinner's-alley. Interns, 43; externs, 8,103.
1757. The return of patients fell to—Interns, 43; externs, 2,017.
1758. Interns, 55; externs, 3,000.
1759. Interns, 63; externs, 3,445.
1760. Externs, 5,060; interns, 71, "several of whom underwent the most dangerous operations in surgery, and left the house quite cured." The hospital is now located in Meath-street.
1761. Interns, 101; externs, 6,305.
1766. First entry in earliest minute book. The hospital appears now to be in Earl-street. Annual dinner of the governors at three o'clock, at the Phoenix, No. 25, Werburgh-street. Cost of dinner, 2s. 8½d. each.
The expenses of the hospital for this year amounted to £188 8s. 4½d.

1767. Feb. 25, Resolved—"That Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Guinness, waite on Mr. Sheridan to request of him to aet a play for the benefit of the hospitall."

The play of *Douglas* was accordingly acted at the Smock-alley Theatre.

April 23. "The Committee of Marchants for conducting the lottery for the new Exchange agreed to give the sum of £100 to the hospitall," which was done in October of the same year.

Sept. 24. Mrs. Elizabeth Percivall, of Stapleton, in the County Gloucester, gave £10, and promised an annual donation of £30.

Interns, 305; externs, 10,047. "Drs. Wm. Patten and John Charles Fleury attend ou Monday and Friday to give adviee to externs in physical cases, besides their daily attendanee on interns."

1768. Mr. Vance handed in a donation of £50, received from Mr. Stephen Reynolds, apothecary, the beuefaction of a gentleman who desired his name to be concealed.

1769. Bequest of £50 from the late Dr. Smith (Reetor of St. Anne's), per Ralph Smith, Esq.

Oct. 5. At the annual dinner at the Turk's Head, in Church-street, Lord Brabazon in the chair, thanks were returned for these benefactions, and "the heulths of the Committee of Merehants were drunk in a bumper for their kind distinction in favour of this charity."—Vide *Saunders's News-Letter*, and the *Dublin Journal*.

Mrs. Elizabeth Pereivall, who had married the Rev. Edward Lockwood, notified to the treasurer her intention of giving a benefaction of three-fourths of £1,000 to Catherine's Hospital, in Meath-street, or the Meath Hospital in St. Catherine's parish. She died in 1770.

1770. Oct. 10. The foundation-stone of the new Meath Hospital on the Coombe was laid by Lord Brabazon.

Dec. 16. Charity sermon by Dr. Herries, professor of oratory, in Usher's-quay Meeting-house. Collection, £73 10s.

Interns, 350; externs, 10,200.

1771. Donation of £300 from the Committee of Merchants.

1772. June 13. Benefit play, *Douglas*, produced £148 8s. 7d.

Oct. 23. The Committee of the Corporation of Weavers gave a sum of £100 out of the scheme for building almshouses.

1773. A petition was presented to the Irish House of Commons praying that the Hospital should be constituted the County Dublin Infirmary.

The hospital on the Coombe was opened for the reception of patients in Mareh 1773.

1774. The Meath Hospital was constituted the County Dublin Infirmary by Act of Parliament.

1778. August 14. An order was made that notice of urgent cases admitted should be given by the porter to the surgeons and apprentices, for which service each apprentice was to give the porter 2d., or in default to pay a fine of 2s. 6d.
1781. The Committee tried to change the annual play into a charity sermon at St. Peter's Church, but failed, although "Mrs. Barrington generously consented to sing at the charity sermon." Finally a concert was given and the music [*Handel's*] of the Te Deum, Jubilate, &c., was borrowed from Mercer's Hospital.
1783. Donation from Mrs. Mary Ford, of £100 through Dr. Quin.
1786. Legacy from Mr. Rogerson of £300.
1787. Captain Preston, of 13, Merrion-street, gave a donation of £300.
1790. John Cunningham, Esq., gave a donation of £100.
1814. Mr. Thomas Pleasants gave through Mr. Richards and Mr. Peile the sum of £4,000 for enlarging the hospital, and £2,000 to be funded for the purpose of procuring wine and other necessaries for cases that require them.
1816. The Committee purchased "The Dean's Vineyard" from the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's for the sum of £1,126 free of rent. This piece of ground contains two Irish acres.
1820. The County of Dublin granted a sum of £4,788 to complete the Hospital. This sum was given in successive presentments.
1822. December 24th. The New Meath Hospital, in the Long-lane, was opened for the reception of patients.
1830. The Theatre was added to the Hospital, its cost being defrayed by a legacy of £500 entrusted to Mr. Macnamara, by a patient, for charitable and useful purposes, and by a donation of £100 from Mr. Crumpton, and £50 from each of the other medical men, except Mr. Roney.
- 1852-3. The "Collis Wards," were added as a memorial to Maurice Collis, for twenty-five years surgeon to the Hospital. Their cost, amounting to £480, was contributed by his relations and friends.
1855. The Right Hon. James Grattan left to the Hospital the interest of £4,728. In grateful remembrance of this bequest the principal ward for surgical patients was named the "Grattan Ward."
1865. The "Smyly Ward," for children, built as a memorial to Josiah Smyly, for thirty years surgeon to the Hospital, was opened by the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Wodehouse. £682 8s. was subscribed for the purpose of the memorial. After all expenses were paid, a sum of £250 remained to be invested as a nucleus for an endowment fund. To this a further sum of £50, the bequest of Mrs. Richard Brady, has been added.

In the same year a bed was endowed in memory of William Henry Porter, who for forty-one years had been surgeon to the Hospital.

Also a similar endowment was made in memory of Francis Rynd, who had been surgeon to the Hospital for twenty-five years.

1867. The Corporation of the City of Dublin presented the sum of £300 towards the support of the Hospital.



